The World Within

Deconstructing Reality through Nibbana Sermon 23

The Fire Ordeal

The teachings on Nibbana function as a "fire ordeal"—an exorcism of the malignant personality view. We are not here to propitiate spirits, but to fumigate the house of views.

"When dhammas manifest themselves to the resolutely meditating Brahmin, he stands fumigating the hordes of Mara like the sun irradiating the firmament."

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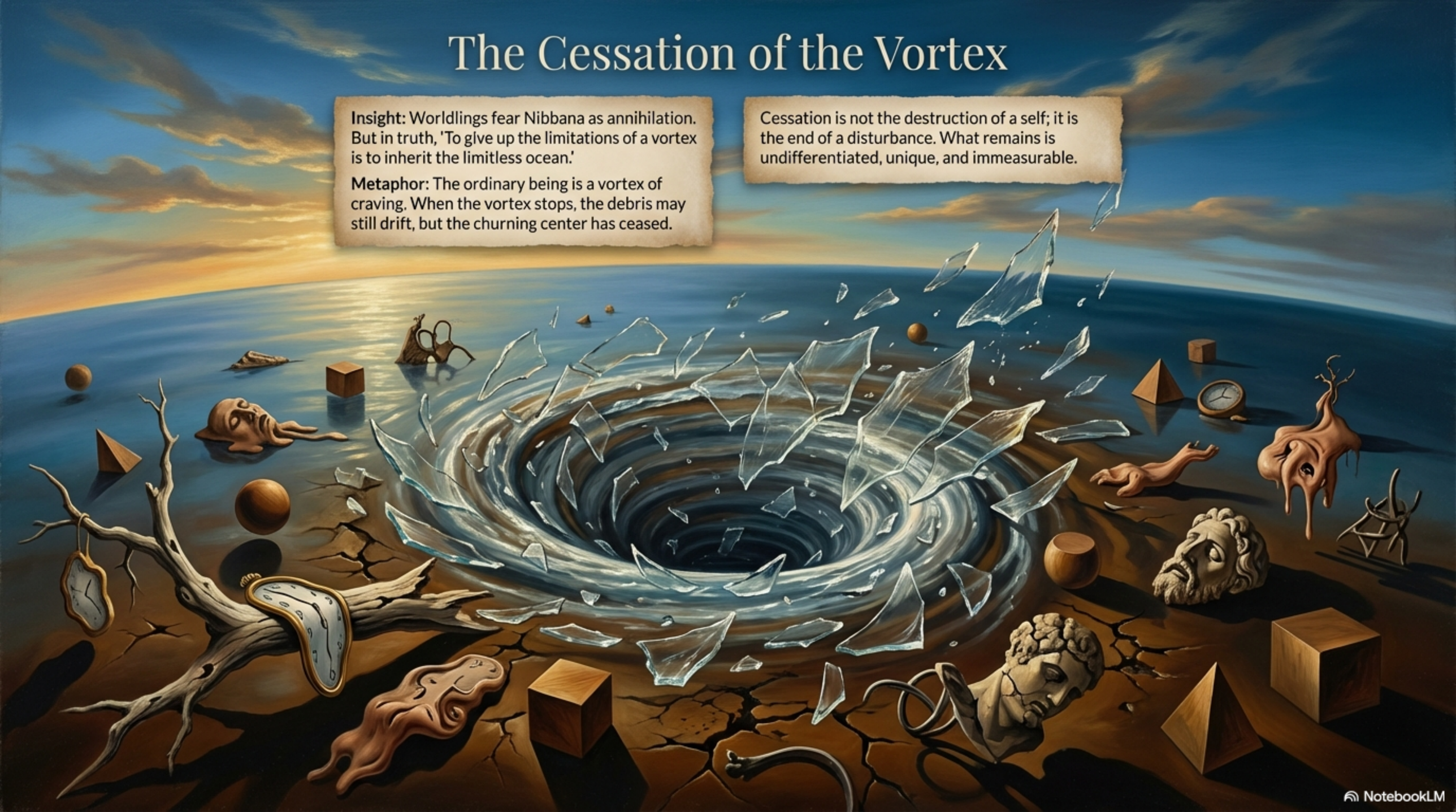
The Cessation of the Vortex

Insight: Worldlings fear Nibbana as annihilation. But in truth, 'To give up the limitations of a vortex is to inherit the limitless ocean.'

Metaphor: The ordinary being is a vortex of craving. When the vortex stops, the debris may still drift, but the churning center has ceased.

Cessation is not the destruction of a self; it is the end of a disturbance. What remains is undifferentiated, unique, and immeasurable.



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The Six Scales of Measurement

We do not live in an objective world; we live in a ‘measured’ world.

The Definition: “That with which the world is measured, that itself is called the world.”

The Measuring Rods: Eye, Ear, Nose, Tongue, Body, Mind.

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The Fallacy of the Magic Kettle

The Illusion: “We view the world through the duality of ‘It exists’ (filling the basin) or ‘It does not exist’ (emptying the kettle).”

The Reality: “Like the magic kettle with a hidden tube, the world is a closed loop of dependent arising. The basin gets filled **while** it is emptied.”

“For one who sees the arising of the world ... the notion of non-existence does not occur. For one who sees the cessation... the notion of existence does not occur.”

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The Lotus in the Cesspool

The Arahant is not a frightening void, but a “charming lotus” arising from the “cesspool of Samsara.” Just as a lotus might grow on a heap of rubbish, so the disciple of the awakened one shines forth among the blind common people.

The philosophy of voidness yields an unworldly beauty.

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The Riddle of the Traveler

in Playfair Display

The Declaration:
"I do not say that the end of the world is reached by traveling…"

The Contradiction:
"…Yet, I also say that without reaching the end of the world, there is no making an end to suffering."
Lato

We treat the world as a physical location to be traversed. But space and time are circular traps. Physical travel cannot solve a metaphysical problem.

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The Case of Rohitassa

Story Panel: Rohitassa, a deity with the speed of an arrow, ran for 100 years to find the edge of the world. He died on the way.
The Mistake: He possessed infinite speed but sought a finite end in an infinite cycle.

Concept Panel: Speculation about the universe (finite vs. infinite) is a circular argument. Logic cannot solve a problem created by the structure of logic itself.

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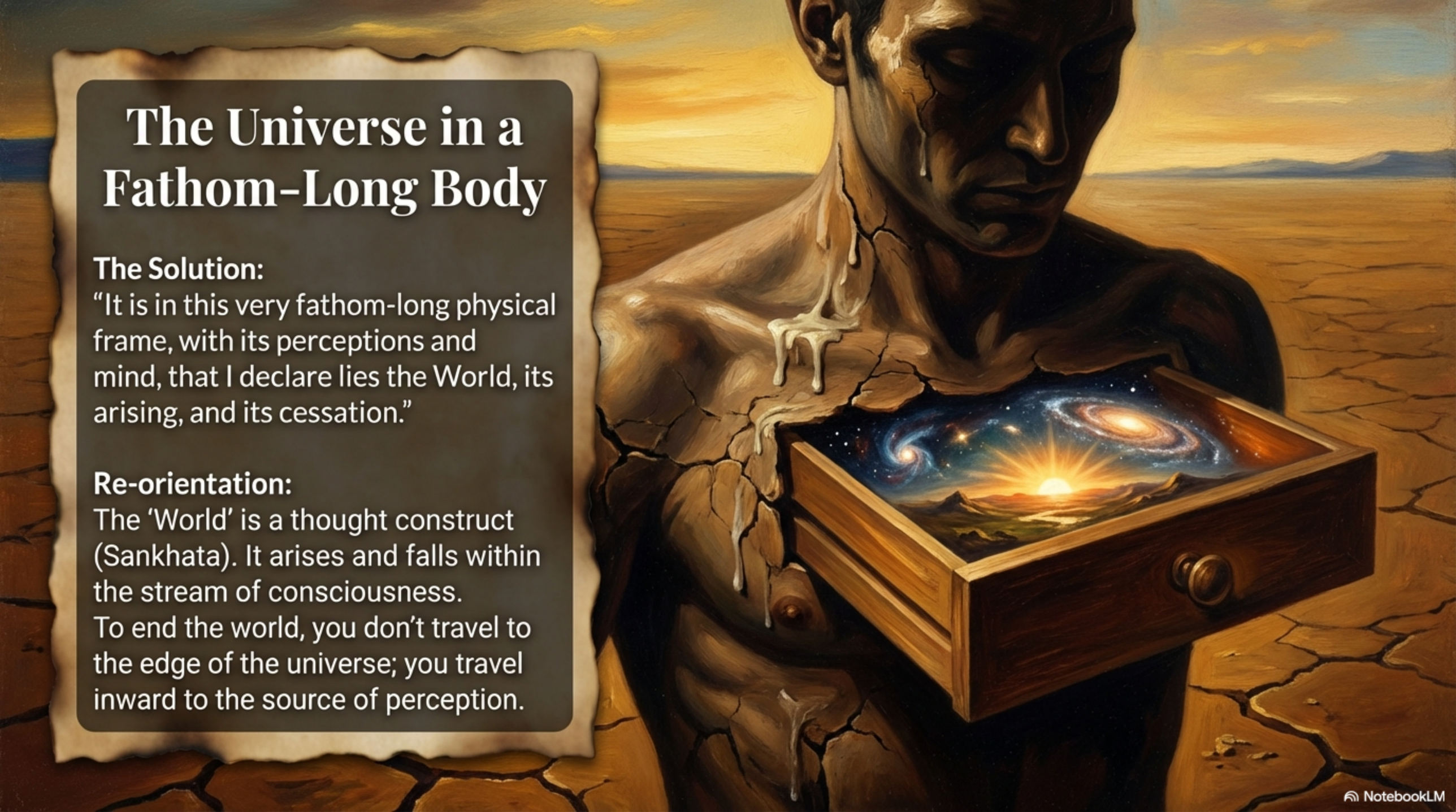
The Universe in a Fathom-Long Body

The Solution:
“It is in this very fathom-long physical frame, with its perceptions and mind, that I declare lies the World, its arising, and its cessation.”

Re-orientation:
The ‘World’ is a thought construct (Sankhata). It arises and falls within the stream of consciousness.
To end the world, you don’t travel to the edge of the universe; you travel inward to the source of perception.



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The Plague of Conceptual Proliferation (Papancha)

Papancha is the network of grammar, logic, and concepts that creates the illusion of a solid reality.

The Delirium: Worldlings cry out for the water of reality but only get the mirage of language.

As far as the range of the six bases for contact extends, just so far extends the range of proliferation.

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The Failure of Logic

The Question:
“When the six spheres of contact cease, is there something left? Is there nothing left?”

The Tetralemma:
Exists / Doesn't Exist / Both / Neither

The Rejection:
All four alternatives are rejected as ‘Baseless Talk’.
Logic applies only *within* the system of measurement. Asking what remains after the measuring stops is like asking where the fire went after it went out.

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The Specter of Contact

The world ends when *Contact* (*Phassa*)—the friction between the sense organ and the object—ceases.

Contact creates the duality of 'Subject' and 'Object.' It is the ghost that haunts the machine.

Result: 'The nose ceases and the perception of smells fades away... The mind ceases and the perception of ideas fades away."

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Breaking the Bridge

Interdependence:
Consciousness and Name-and-Form (Mind/Matter) support each other like two bundles of reeds.

The Collapse:
You don't destroy the world piece by piece. You pull the reed of Consciousness, and the reed of the World (Name-and-Form) falls. When consciousness has so ceased, these are held in check.

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The Unmanifest Consciousness

- **Description:** “Consciousness which is non-manifestative, endless, lustrous on all sides.”
- **No Footing:** “Here it is that earth, water, fire, and air find no footing.”
- **Liberation:** “It is not a blank darkness, but a radiance where relative distinctions (long/short, beautiful/ugly) can no longer exist.”

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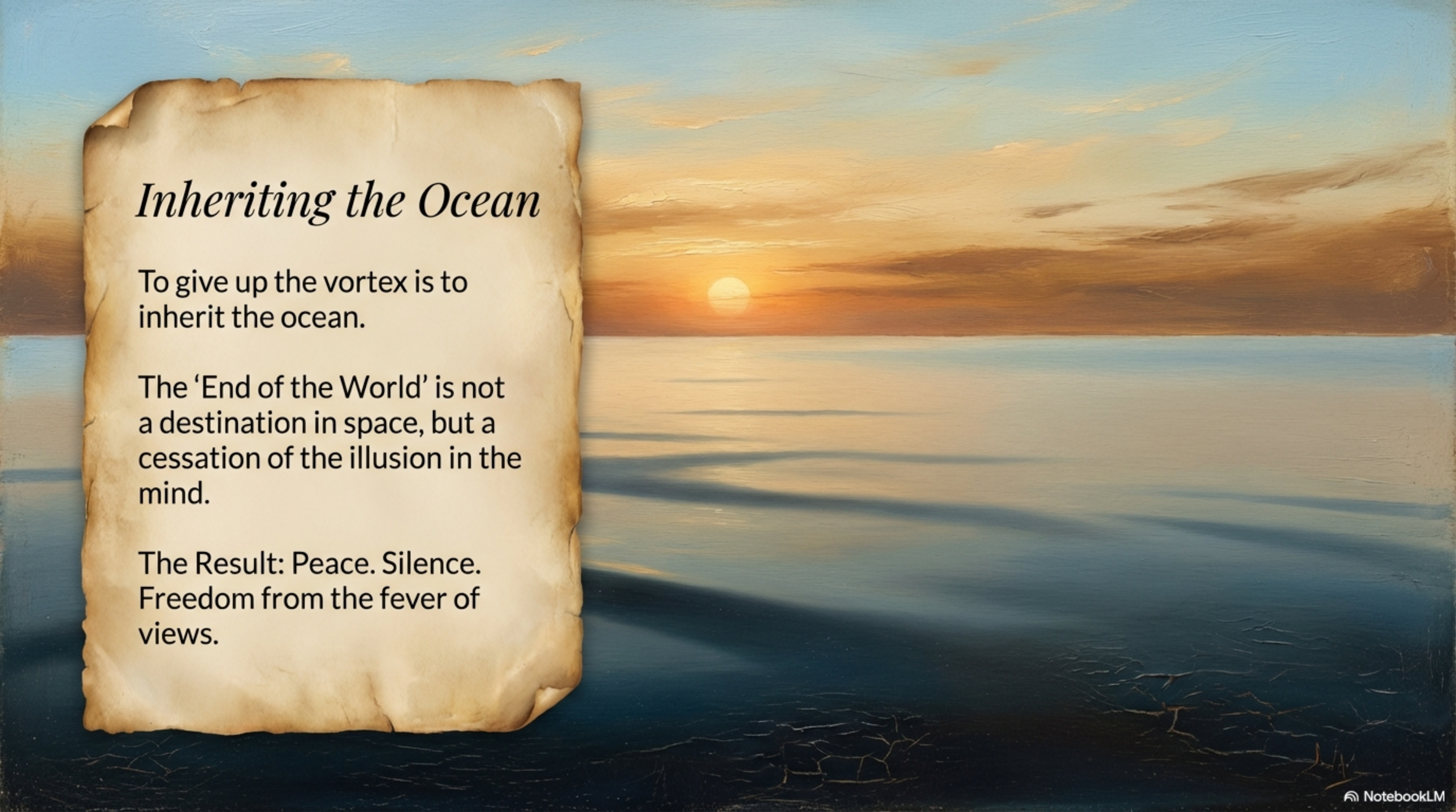
Inheriting the Ocean
To give up the vortex is to inherit the ocean.
The ‘End of the World’ is not a destination in space, but a cessation of the illusion in the mind.
The Result: Peace. Silence. Freedom from the fever of views.

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